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Civil rights activist Angela Davis to speak at Middlebury next week

By LUCY TOWNEND
Local Editor

Civil rights activist Angela Davis will speak to the college over Zoom on Wednesday, Oct. 28 from 7 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. The event will be largely audience-driven, focusing on pre-submitted questions followed by a live-audience question and answer session. Community members can submit questions at go/askangela.

"Angela Davis is perhaps the foremost living civil rights icon," said Elizabeth Callaway '21, co-executive of the Middlebury College Activities Board (MCAB) Speakers Committee. "She is a renowned academic and trailblazer in every line of work that she engages in." Callaway is an organizer of the event alongside co-executive Anna Spiro '21.

Davis is a founding member of the Critical Resistance, an organization dedicated to abolishing the prison-industrial complex in the United States. She was also a leading member of the Communist Party USA, appearing as their vice-presidential candidate on the ballot in 1980 and 1984. Her academic work focuses on the intersection of race, sex and social consciousness.

"We think that she is a wealth of information that students

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COURTESY OF MCAB

Civil rights activist Angela Davis will speak to the college community roughly a week before Election Day.

COURTESY PHOTO

George Matthews Jr. sitting at the Middlebury carillion. He has been the man behind the bells for the past 35 years.

Behind the Mead Chapel bells, carillonneur George Matthew Jr. plays for passion and protest

By SOPHIA MCDERMOTT-HUGHES
Senior News Writer

At 12:30 p.m. each day, the 48 bells suspended in Mead Chapel's tower ring out. The sounds of Irish folk songs, Baroque fugues and ragtime jigs echo across campus. The chapel's tower is a central landmark on campus, but its virtuoso remains an enigma to many.

George Matthew Jr. has played the carillon — the set of bells suspended in the tower — for 59 years, 35 of them at Middlebury College. His love for the instrument started long before that, more than 81 years ago.

In one of Matthew's first memories, he sat on his father's shoulders, his head standing high above the crowd at the 1939 World's Fair in Queens, New York City. He had an unimpeded view of the carillon tower rising high above him. When the bells began to play so thunderously loud that they echoed in his head, he stared, enraptured. His four-year-old heart sang, and from that moment on, he was hooked on the carillon.

Matthew comes from a family of musicians who were more than supportive of his interests, but his early efforts to learn music were unsuccessful.

At age five, his uncle tried to teach him how to play the violin. But as a naturally talented player, his uncle didn't understand how to teach Matthew, who didn't share his gift.

At age six, his father, who directed the church choir and played the organ, started him on the piano with a stern German instructor. Matthew still remembers reaching up to the keyboard to practice his scales. Once again, the instrument didn't stick.

At age seven, the magic struck. His parents bought him a mellophone, an instrument similar to the french horn. He played it for hours,

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VAN BARTH/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Matthew's carillion is located in the tower of Mead Chapel and can be heard ringing out all across campus.

News in Brief

College permits greater dining hall, residence hall and study space access as colder months approach; abandons Phase Three plans

By RILEY BOARD
Managing Editor

This week, students were granted expanded access to residential halls and academic spaces, and the freedom to eat in their dining hall of choice, as the college moves into what is being called "Expanded Phase Two." The college, however, will not be transitioning into the Phase Three that it proposed in initial reopening plans.

Students were informed of the expanded opportunities, alongside a reassessment of the original three-phased reopening approach, in a Wednesday, Oct. 20 email announcement signed by President Laurie

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College moves to Credit/No Credit system for fall and spring semesters

By SARAH MILLER
Contributing Writer

The college is removing the Pass/D/Fail (P/D/F) option for the fall 2020 and spring 2021 semesters. Instead, students can choose to take one class Credit/No Credit (C/NC) this semester.

A course taken C/NC can be used to satisfy major and minor requirements or distribution requirements, which was not allowed under the previous P/D/F system.

The Education Affairs Committee made the decision to replace the P/D/F option with C/NC after fac-

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Professors encouraged to decrease workload, expand flexibility by Faculty Council

By RILEY BOARD
Managing Editor

Halfway through a condensed semester with no breaks and increased Covid-19-related stressors, Faculty Council and the Educational Affairs Committee reached out to faculty in a Monday, Oct. 18 email suggesting that they adjust the workloads of their courses to be more forgiving to students.

"As the second half of the term unfolds, a stressful time under the best of circumstances, Faculty Council and the Educational Affairs Committee write to ask faculty members to give themselves permission to cut back on expectations, assignments, and workload in ways that make sense for their own courses," reads the email, which was signed by the seven members of

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DEAN OF STUDENTS DOUCET TAKES LEAVE OF ABSENCE, TRIGGERING LEADERSHIP ADJUSTMENTS

By TONY SJODIN
Senior News Writer

Dean of Students Derek Doucet will be taking a leave of absence through the end of November, according to an email sent from the Office of the President on Oct. 14. AJ Place, associate dean for student life, will serve as acting Dean of Students in Doucet's place. Place will oversee the Office of Community Standards, Student Activities and Residential Life. Kristy Carpenter, assistant director for residential life, will temporarily step into the role of associate dean for student life.

"Since I'm only stepping into this role temporarily, I'm trying to get up to speed on the work Dean Doucet was doing, which always has a bit of a learning curve," Place said. "Overall it's a challenging term for everyone, so continuing to help us as a community through the next few weeks is my main goal."

Jennifer Sellers, dean of student life, will temporarily co-chair Community Council — a responsibility usually managed by the Dean of Students.

"I was more than happy to do it," Sellers said. "I miss being in the classroom a lot this semester, so having a chance to talk more with students about issues, like on Community Council, just seemed like a wonderful thing."

The Community Council's first meeting was on Monday, Oct. 19. Sellers said she has no agenda of her own but looks forward to hearing councilmembers' concerns.

"I really do think it's a forum and a space for the people who applied to be on the council to advocate for what they thought were going to be issues of importance and also to be able to vet those issues that are coming up organically in the moment," Sellers said. "I imagine a lot is going to be around the issue of uniformed [Public Safety officers] on campus and how it might evolve in the future."

The email also announced several updates to staff working on programming within the Student Life Office.

Jessica Holmes, professor of economics, will be stepping into a newly created role as student life advisor for remote students through the end of the 2020–21 academic year.

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As seasons change, Middlebury restaurants and cafes adjust operations

By FLORENCE WU
Staff Writer

As the recent dips in temperature foreshadow the upcoming winter, restaurants and cafes in Middlebury have been forced to make plans for the colder weather and flu season. While larger restaurants prepare for both indoor dining and takeaway, smaller venues are adopting a pick-up only mode.

Summer and Fall Months

Currently, local restaurants Fire and Ice and The Arcadian offer both indoor and outdoor seating. These restaurants' operations have been relatively successful over the summer, according to their respective owners.

"We are lucky to have had a really dry summer, so outside seating worked real-

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NEWS

Declining balance can be spent in town this spring with 'Middlebury Money'

By LILY JONES

Middlebury students take on remote abroad courses and international internships

By KATIE FUTTERMAN

ARTS & CULTURE

New magazine 'To Whom it May Concern' spotlights student curiosity

By EDYTH MOLDOW

Direct Your Attention: At the October Apple Event, come for the tech, stay for the cinematic spectacle

By OWEN MASON-HILL

'Clover Magazine' creates space for the fashionable intellectual

By CHARLIE DEICHMAN CASWELL

OPINION

Sweden tried "herd immunity" with Covid-19. I was one of the herd.

By PORTER BOWMAN

During nobody's normal, staff and faculty make it possible

By EDITORIAL BOARD

MASK OFF, MIDD: Right person, wrong time?

By MARIA KAOURIS

SPORTS

Throwback Thursday: This day in 1978, cross country dominates the course

By ERIN KELLY